

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 JANUARY 1982

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

According to Cairo radio, Egyptian press reports of President Husni Mubarak's 19 January meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon highlighted Mubarak's affirmation that Egypt will adhere to the peace process and fully implement the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. IDF radio said Mubarak emphasized that Egypt will not change its attitude to peace and asserted that it make no difference if an autonomy agreement is achieved now or later. Sharon said Israel prefers an autonomy agreement as early as possible, the radio added. According to a 20 January Jerusalem POST report, Mubarak and Sharon agreed to do their utmost to stem the flow of acrimonious statements in both countries.

Meanwhile, in a statement carried by MENA, the joint Egyptian-Israeli higher committee announced that during 17-19 January talks in Cairo, the two sides discussed subjects of common interest in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation and signed agreements on a number of subjects, including an accord on the purchase of property and installations in southern Sinai. They also agreed to hold the next meeting of the joint higher committee in Israel on 15 March, the statement said.

According to MENA, Egyptian delegation leader Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the latest agreement solves most of the problems that had been discussed in 42 subcommittee meetings and can be considered "great progress and a great success." MENA noted that both 'Ali and Israeli delegation leader Sharon told newsmen that there is no problem regarding the demarcation of the border at Rafah and that a joint technical committee will look into the matter. MENA also said the Israelis promised to release a number of Egyptian prisoners from Israeli jails.

Jerusalem radio reported that in a meeting with Sharon, Egyptian Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah agreed to visit Israel at the end of February.

Israel

Begin's Letter to Reagan -- Jerusalem radio reported that in a letter of reply to U.S. President Ronald Reagan Prime Minister Menahem Begin "complained" about misunderstandings accompanying the signing of the memorandum on strategic understanding. Another Jerusalem radio report said Begin promised Reagan that so long as diplomatic efforts to solve the Al-Biqa' missile crisis continue, Israel will not use force "unless provoked." According to the radio, Begin also wrote that Israel will accept no arrangement for Judaea and Samaria other than the autonomy plan and reminded Reagan that at Camp David Israel rejected President as-Sadat's suggestion that the Palestinians be given self-determination.

MFO Delay -- According to Jerusalem radio, Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir want to guarantee that European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) will be based only on the Camp David agreements and will not be a conditional participation. Meanwhile, DAVAR wrote that a bill stipulating that MFO troops will be tried by their own military courts for criminal and civil offenses passed its first reading in the Knesset.

Criticism of Egypt -- In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Moshe Arens, ambassador-designate to the United States, opined that Egyptian President Mubarak will examine every proposed autonomy solution from the viewpoint of its acceptability to the Arab world, an approach that contradicts the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. A MA'ARIV commentary analyzed Egyptian Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah's interview in the Egyptian weekly MAY and urged Israel to reassess Egypt's aims and its own policy of not objecting to U.S. arming of Egypt.

Jordan

According to Amman radio, AD-DUSTUR wrote that Egypt's stand on the autonomy negotiations is reassuring because it does not want to sign any agreement conflicting with Palestinian rights and aspirations.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that the U.S. Embassy received warning that a boobytrapped car was parked near the embassy on 19 January. However, security forces found no suspect vehicle.

In its first monitored report of Israeli planes overflying Lebanon on 19 January, Damascus radio said ground defenses forced the planes to flee, but did not mention the use of SAM's. Jerusalem radio cited an IDF spokesman's denial of UNIFIL reports that Israeli aircraft overflew Tyre on 20 January.

Citing Arab League sources, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Arab League ambassadors meeting in Tunis agreed to renew the ADF mandate in Lebanon for another 6 months. According to INA, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Somalia, Sudan and Oman have all expressed reservations over the decision.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported the explosion of a plane over Aleppo, killing the pilot; a fire in a high school; and the explosion of two bombs killing "a number" of people. AFP cited an AL-BATH article accusing "isolationist forces" in coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood of being "at the root of assassinations and sabotage" in the country.

Libya

Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio reported that in their talks in Algiers, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid reached agreement on "important preliminary steps for unity between the two countries."

Sudan

SUNA reported an announcement by the deputy governor of the central region that police arrested 376 "vagrants and idlers" on 8 January for their involvement in recent acts of violence. SUNA also noted that First Vice President Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil told political leaders meeting in Khartoum that they should discuss recent student demonstrations and place public welfare above personal interests. Omdurman radio broadcast a letter from President Numayri to the governor of Khartoum Province in which he nullified local orders by district councils in Khartoum and Nile East to impose levies on sugar and to ban the sale and consumption of intoxicating drinks.

Iran

Complaint of U.S. 'Violation' -- According to Tehran radio's English service, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi said in a press interview that the United States has not returned Iranian assets and has failed to submit an inventory of the late shah's wealth in the United States. Nabavi announced that Iran submitted a complaint to the International Court of Justice in The Hague regarding U.S. "violation" of the Algerian agreement.

Police Purge -- Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told the Majlis that Iran must continue to purge its police force, whose strength has already dropped from 60,000 to 40,000, AFP reported.

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DELHI REPORTS INCIDENTS OF STRIKE VIOLENCE

BK191649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Reports received from all over the country indicate that the 24-hour strike call by some trade unions evoked little response. People and workers largely ignored the call. Life, as was expected earlier, went on as usual. Attendance in most of the major industrial units, establishments and offices in different parts of the country was almost normal. However, there were some violent incidents in West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Kerale and Uttar Pradesh.

According to latest reports, normal traffic of trains was reported from Delhi, Bombay and Madras besides other centers, excepting West Bengal. Railway Minister P.C. Sethi has felicitated all the railwaymen for the excellent work done by the railways in keeping the services normal throughout the country today. A spokesman of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation said all the 10 flights of Air India took off from Bombay with a full complement of passengers according to schedule. Work in the international airport authority is normal in all the region and in Madras attendance was more than usual. The India Airlines attendance is also normal in all the regions except in the eastern region. The post offices and railway mail service offices, as well as telecommunications throughout the country, are functioning normally. The work in seven of the major ports is normal.

In Assam, all essential services continue to function without any disruption. A state government spokesman told the All-India Radio [AIR] Gauhati correspondent that most of the industrial units, all the public sector refineries and oil installations and most of the tea gardens are functioning normally.

In West Bengal, at least 3 persons were killed and 50 others injured in clashes that took place between the supporters and opponents of the strike. Of this, two persons were killed at Shyampur in Howrah District and one at Kalna in Burdawan District. Giving this information in Calcutta this evening, Chief Minister Jyoti Basu said that 50 others were injured in the clashes. Police have so far arrested 75 persons in connection with various incidents. To avoid serious clashes police opened fire in at least four places. About 700 supporters of Chatra Parishad and Yuva Congress-I [student and youth wings of Congress-I] courted arrest in Calcutta today violating prohibitory orders.

Normal life in Kerala remained largely unaffected. Attendance in offices varied between 80 to 90 percent. In industrial establishments it ranged between 70 to 80 percent. The public sector Hindustan latex factory in Trivandrum registered a record production today. Most of the newspaper offices are working.

However, there are some reports of violence and sabotage. One person was killed in a clash between two groups of people at Ellore near Alwaye. In Kelnor District police had to open fire in the air to disperse strikers who were forcing shopkeepers to close their shops.

Chief Minister of Kerala K. Karunakaran, in a press release in New Delhi, has expressed happiness that majority of workers and government employees of the state did not participate in the strike.

In Tamilnadu, all essential services functioned as usual. The AIR correspondent says that in the industrial city of Coimbatore almost all the 150 textile mills and engineering concerns functioned normally.

However, in Tanjavur District, police had to open fire at two places to control a violent mob. In the (Thirumenglaram) village in the district 1 person died in police firing when teargas failed to control a crowd of about 1,000 agricultural workers who tried to block the road traffic. At another place near Mayakodi, police opened fire to save the lives of bus passengers from a group of 400 agricultural workers who indulged in violence.

The strike had practically no impact in Uttar Pradesh. Industrial units, shops and other commercial establishments functioned normally.

Giving this information to newsmen in Lucknow today, an official said the situation throughout the state was in general peaceful. However, the police had to resort to firing in self-defense when a mob collected near Babuhri police outpost in Varanasi District and started brickbattling and snatched away rifles from some policemen. Two persons were killed. Two policemen were also seriously injured.

HERALD ON 20-POINT PROGRAM, CABINET SHUFFLE

BK191427 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 17 Jan 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Mrs Gandhi's New Deal"]

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi's Cabinet reshuffle has come a day after her announcement of a new bold 20-point programme which is meant to give a fresh impetus to economic growth and provide relief to the urban and rural poor. Since the success of her new programme depends on followup measures at the centre and in the states, the changes brought about by her in the Union Cabinet are quite significant. That she is dead serious about further boosting farm output and augmenting irrigation potential could be gauged from the fact that she has created a new Ministry of Irrigation which will be manned by Mr Kedar Pandey. The fresh inductions and rationalisation in certain portfolios should provide a new dynamism in the functioning of the government.

Mrs Gandhi is clear about her priorities. Her new 20-point programme will be the new mantra of her administration to take the country forward. The new programme shares several common features with the 20-point plan announced by the prime minister in 1975. It takes into account the changes that have taken place in the socioeconomic life of the people in the past seven years. It speaks of special efforts to boost production of pulses, development of biogas and other alternative sources of energy, promotion of family planning on a voluntary basis, universal primary health care facilities and universal elementary education and the improvement in the working of public sector enterprises.

The Thrust

The whole thrust of Mrs Gandhi's development philosophy is to make freedom meaningful for every segment of the population, specially for the poor and downtrodden sections. In a developing society like ours, complex socioeconomic problems will have to be tackled within the framework of a long-term perspective. What is equally important is the need for creating among the have nots a sense of trust and confidence in the existing system. This is what the prime minister is aiming at.

A lot of mist has been cleared. Along with deadwood from the past, old alibis for nonperformance are also being swept aside. The main task is to restructure the instruments of the political will in a manner that provides both cohesion to the process of policy-making and direction to its translation into action.

People's Duty

The onus of nation building is, however, not on the government alone. The people, too, have a duty to rededicate themselves to carrying the nation forward in the same spirit in which we once fought for freedom. It is in this context that Mrs Gandhi's new national motto "Sramevo Jayate" (Work Alone Wins) needs to be viewed. She has rightly said that there is only one magic which can remove poverty -- and that is "hard work helped by a clear sense of purpose and discipline."

The challenge today is how to turn the revolution of rising expectations into the supreme endeavour of rebuilding the nation. The pace of economic growth has to be faster if we have to meet the expectations of the poor.

There is no alternative to efficient functioning of all sectors of the economy so that it does not remain at the mercy of manipulators, speculators and fixers. Since the public sector holds the key to development Mrs Gandhi has rightly put special emphasis on efficient working of public enterprises. This will require a new administrative orientation. An unresponsive administration could frustrate the best of plans and intentions. Not that the administrative machinery lacks expertise and functional ability, but it does need to show a new work ethos so that no quarter is shown to sloth and irresponsibility.

No Soft Options

Mrs Gandhi has given the people a new programme of action after their bitter experience with the Janata-Lok Dal regime. It is the duty of every patriotic Indian to give her a helping hand so that the vested interests, inimical to progress, are crushed once for all.

It needs to be remembered that there are no soft options in nation-building. On our work today will depend the state of the nation tomorrow.

RICE TO BE EXCHANGED FOR SOVIET CRUDE OIL

BK200911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] India will supply 200,000 tons of rice to the Soviet Union in return for crude oil. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today. This is in addition to the 180,000 tons of rice for which a contract was signed in May last year. The entire quantity of rice will be supplied between February and June.

The agreement was signed by the director of food corporation of India, B.S. Raghavan, and the chief of the department of Soviet trade representative, A.S. Maltseyev, for his country.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM COOPERATION TALKS IN LAOS

BK200330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT Jan 82

[Text] An Indian delegation of experts, which has just concluded a visit to Laos, has identified several areas of cooperation with that country in agriculture, mines, forests, rural irrigation, minipower generation and small-scale industries.

The delegation had extensive talks on bilateral economic and technical cooperation with Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihan and the chairman of the National Planning Committee.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN -- India is to get a loan of about 440 million rupees from Japan for three projects concerning telecommunication expansion, railways and for modernization of the Bombay suburban railways. An agreement for this was signed in New Delhi on 13 January. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 82 BK]

FOREIGN OFFICE REBUTS REPORT ON DRIVER INCIDENT

BK191600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed great regret over the unconfirmed report broadcast by All-India Radio in connection with the alleged incident with a chauffeur of the Indian Embassy in Islamabad last night.

The spokesman said that on Sunday night the India charge d'affaires informed the Foreign Office and the local police about the mysterious disappearance of the embassy driver and the next morning he formally sent a protest note to the Foreign Office.

The Indian charge d'affaires was told that unless the real situation is known, nothing can be said but he was assured of full cooperation in this regard.

The spokesman expressed surprise and regret that All-India Radio broadcast this alleged report despite assurances from the Indian charge d'affaires that the embassy would not broadcast this report until the investigation is completed.

The spokesman said that the local police are investigating this alleged incident and this investigation can progress further only with the full cooperation of the Indian Embassy. The embassy has been requested to allow the driver concerned to help police in the investigation.

AFP: COUNCIL MEMBERS RAP HAQ MILITARY RULE

BK201003 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Islamabad, 20 Jan (AFP) -- The Pakistani Consultative Council set up by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's military regime ended its first session yesterday after composing a list of criticisms of the way in which the country's affairs are being carried out.

Several members of the council called the maintenance of order and the country's internal situation unsatisfactory, and said that the Islamicization policy -- the regime's central theme -- had not been put to work at a sufficiently fast pace.

Though opponents of the council accused Gen. Zia of forming it to "rubber stamp" his policies and lend his government credibility, some council members criticized the military rule and said it should be replaced by a civilian government as soon as possible.

Observers said some of the council members appeared to have gone to the very limit of acceptability in their comments. Some members called for the liberation of political detainees, while others complained that members of the extremist organization Al-Zulfiqar -- headed by the son of executed former President Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto -- had no legal means of expression.

The comments were quoted in the Pakistani press, which officially was freed from censorship with the opening of the council.

In a move to offset the tide of motions threatening to weigh down the debates, Council Chairman Khwaja Mohammad Safdar stuck to the rules and refused to prolong the length of the session -- which had already been increased by 3 days.

BRIEFS

SWEDISH GRANT -- An agreement has been signed in Islamabad on 30 December under which Sweden is to give a grant of 35 million krona to meet the expenses of imports and developmental activities. The amount may be utilized up to 30 June 1983. A major share of the grant is to be spent to streamline the urban transport system in Lahore. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 81 BK]

NABAVI ON U.S. ALGIERS AGREEMENT 'VIOLATIONS'

LD201122 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (IRNA) -- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has submitted a complaint to The Hague on the U.S. violations in implementing the Algiers agreement.

Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi said today that the U.S. had to a wide extent violated the terms of the Algiers agreement and had not returned much of the ex-shah's properties while, added Nabavi, according to this agreement the U.S. was due to submit to Iran within a short period, a list of the ex-shah's properties in that country.

Nabavi, who is also in charge of the coordination office of the Algiers agreement in Tehran, further said that the U.S. should have confiscated the properties of the former shah and his relatives in the U.S. while it has not done so.

About a story published in one of the publications of the region that the U.S. Government had agreed to the withdrawal of some of the ex-shah's properties from U.S. banks to spend on the military budget of one of the countries neighbouring Iran, the state minister said that the Iranian Government had no comment.

KHAMENE'I NOTES NEED FOR EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA

LD192058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Velayati met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon. During this meeting, the foreign minister was accompanied by deputies, directors general, the appointments council, workers and a group of new employees of this ministry.

During the meeting, Mr Khamene'i expressed his pleasure for this visit. Referring to weaknesses and shortcomings following the revolution, and in connection with the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Khamene'i said: We consider our foreign policy to be one of the two main bodies of our revolution. The reason for this, we believe, is foreign aggression and pressure on Iran's Islamic revolution.

Propaganda is the most important means for exerting pressure upon this revolution. If we succeed in introducing and presenting the Islamic revolution to the world, then this revolution would certainly be accepted in the world. It would be sufficient to deliver our words to the people of the world. In that case, we shall certainly have good results.

Afterwards, referring to the characteristics of the imam of the Islamic nation, the president said: We witness how badly world propaganda portrays the face of this great and pious person. Of course, the spiritual influence of our revolution created a kind of infatuation for the imam among the oppressed nations, despite enemy propaganda outside our country.

Mr Khamene'i added: We have a great need to present ourselves to the world. Unfortunately, this was not successfully implemented after the revolution. But today is the day to make up for this shortcoming; all the resources are available.

The president continued: You brothers are talented enough to become sufficiently skilled in a short time; it is certain that we shall not have any problems in this connection.

Mr Khamene'i referred to the imam's remarks, graciously made during his meeting with the minister of foreign affairs, and said: In the imam's view, perhaps you should be the missionaries of Islam and the revolution.

You should prove that you are the messengers and presenters of the revolution through your behavior, the behavior of your families and staff, the situation of your working places and residences, the way you approach personalities and people of other countries and through your steadfastness and farsightedness. You should show how the Islamic revolution can make human beings.

The president referred to the duties of a political representative abroad and said: An ambassador and a political representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic should, through his action, efforts, hard work [word indistinct] and his pleasant approach, do something to strengthen relations between the country in which he serves and the country he represents. He should try to make these relations more friendly, as our government desires. A wise approach by a political representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be an indication of a proper Islamic education, and we would like this to be reflected abroad.

KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES GUARDS CORPS OFFICIALS

LD191032 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (IRNA) -- Cultural officials of the publicity and public relations unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) throughout the country met in Tehran today with President Khamene'i. One of the IRGC officials submitted a report to the president on the function and activities of the cultural-publicity unit of the IRGC, and then the president delivered a speech before them. Addressing the visiting group, the president said it was in the battlefield where man could profoundly understand religion, not elsewhere. It is in the battlefield, said the president, that we see the development of the human being under the effects of faith and commitment. By this President Khamene'i meant those for whom there was no difference between being or not being. He added that if the battle theatre of the Islamic revolution of Iran did not exist, many men would not have turned out so devoted and faithful.

Referring to the statements made by the imam on the liberation of the border town of Bostan (Nov 29th), the president said that there was regrettably a misunderstanding about the imam's saying that this victory was the "greatest of the victories." Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i went on to say that such an interpretation was not right, adding that even the conquest of Iraq also would not be the greatest of the victories in the eyes of the imam. By this statement, the president continued, the imam meant that Iran had many youths ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause of Allah and that the "greatest of victories" was to overcome the ego and carnal desires, which task would be accomplished by a committed nation. The imam believed that the "greatest of the victories" would be achieved for man through his presence in the warfronts, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i.

Referring to the conspiracies of the enemies, President Khamene'i further said that it was not without reason that the enemy, from the very beginning, became active against the IRGC because "you are the fruit of the revolution, with whose destruction the revolution would be destroyed."

KHAMENE'I MESSAGE TO GUARDS CORPS COMMANDERS

LD191256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Message sent by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to a seminar of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commanders held in Tehran on 19 January -- read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The opening of this seminar of Guards Corps commanders gives me another opportunity to express my deepest emotions toward the guards who are the red roses and the blood-fed saplings of the revolution and to say some of the things which must be mentioned.

As the trustee and confidant of this great and brave country, I would like to announce that the corps will remain -- with all of the respect and honor that it deserves -- until the aims of the Islamic revolution of Iran are achieved and until the banner of monotheism is raised.

Now is the best opportunity to mention the advice that is needed, advice which is of considerable importance to the achievement of the aims of the revolution.

1. Create and maintain the necessary military, political, mental, cultural and social capabilities in each and every person in the corps. The corps is the strong arm of the revolution and [words indistinct] and is dutybound to create such capabilities within itself.
2. Make an all-round and ceaseless effort to create a complete military discipline and order which [words indistinct] Imam 'Ali, the son of Abu Talib, included in his last will and testament.
3. Continue efforts to create cooperation and coordination with the armed forces. The armed forces are serving Islam and the nation today, and this huge organization is at the service of the Islamic revolution with all of its might and strength. Therefore, fulfilling the will and the dream of the nation expressed in the slogan "Brothers in the military and in the Guards Corps, you are in the (?imam's) army," both should take the necessary steps toward it.
4. Recognize the primary and true status and position of the corps and act within the duties allocated to the corps -- no more and no less. Interfering in the duties of others is not in the interests of any revolutionary institution or foundation. The corps should not act outside the limits of its duties. The corp's most important and beneficial task is to legally carry out its duties. This will enable the corps to achieve its goals more quickly.
5. Maintain a strong bond with the article of the constitution concerning the vice regency of the chief theologian [velayat-e faqih]. This article should run in the corps' veins as lifegiving blood; it should be reflected in the corps' and corpsmen's actions.
6. Create and maintain a clear, legal and logical relation with the government and accept the sovereignty of the Government of the Islamic Republic, truly and in practice. In order to neutralize the enemy's poisonous propaganda, it is necessary now more than before that the acceptance of the government's sovereignty is reflected in the actions of the corps.
7. Create logical, strong and fraternal relations with other revolutionary institutions such as committees, the reconstruction crusade and others. I repeat my advice that establishing relations should not create interference in each other's duties.
8. Exert the utmost effort to maintain and continue the policy of cleansing, improving and purifying. Only this effort will make the enemy put the dream of penetrating into revolutionary institutions out of his mind, so the corps should continue its ceaseless efforts in this respect and remain a totally Islamic organization comprised of ideologically committed personnel.

Once again I announce my sincere and brotherly love for you and all of the dear and brave Guards Corps personnel. I greet the souls of all those who have sacrificed their dear lives for Islam and revolution. May peace and God's benediction be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON WAR

LD192010 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (IRNA) -- Iran's Ground Forces Commander Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi today scoffed at imperialist and Zionist rumours on alleged arms purchases by Iran from certain countries. The colonel said it was natural to expect such political games being conducted against Iran by the enemies of the Islamic revolution. Speaking to daily ETTELA'AT in Tehran, the ground force commander further stated that Iran had sufficient military facilities and that it has very well utilised these means in the Iraqi imposed war. On the other hand, added the colonel, Iran had reliable and eager specialists for maintaining its military hardware. Furthermore, said Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, Iran had another source of military equipment in the war spoils being seized daily from fleeing Iraqis. The colonel said that such allegations on Iran's arms purchases were only futile efforts aimed at "dissuading us from achieving our holy objectives and the ideals of the revolution."

He concludes that in the fight for the cause of God, it was not weaponry and technology only which could speed up victory but that the main factor was faith and devotion. He added by [as received] the Islamic combatants of Iran has more than enough commitment to guarantee their ultimate victory.

Asked to comment on the outcome of the war, the colonel said that Saddam's status was terribly shaky, adding that "this U.S. puppet will either flee or be assassinated and, if not, he will remain to be toppled by us with the help of the Almighty."

Both political and military incentives prompted the recent lightning operations conducted by Iran's Islamic defenders inside Iraqi territory (Operations Mohammad, Messenger of God (SAW) on Jan 2nd near Iraqi town of Tavailah, in which some 700 Iraqis were killed and 144 others taken captive). The ground forces commander said the successful operations proved that Iranian soldiers were able to maintain their military superiority over the enemy even in the mountainous areas. From the military point of view, added the commander, it demonstrated the ever-increasing coordination between the army, the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and the Kurdish Muslim peshmerga, backed by the ground artillery fire and air force. From the political point of view, the colonel went on to say, the enemy imagined that Iran was unable to inflict blows upon Iraqi troops in their own territory, while this operation shattered that illusion.

Speaking about the many inhuman crimes being committed by Saddam's forces against Iranian civilians, particularly the crime in the southern village of Dhofar (where the bodies of 20 Arabic-speaking Iranian women, who had been raped and tortured to death, were discovered in a mass grave), Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi said Iran did not expect anything else from Saddam, who is a U.S. puppet, or from his troops, who know that they are fighting for falsehood.

In the last part of the interview, the ground forces commander said that the Iranian combatants were holding the upperhand in all the southern and western fronts, adding that their morale was quite high.

IRAQIS RETREAT FROM SOUTHERN BANK OF NEYSAN

LD171758 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Tehran, 17 Jan (IRNA) -- Following the successive attacks and Iranian artillery fire, Iraqi forces were compelled to retreat from the southern banks of the Neysan River to the southern section of Karkheh Kur.

An area of about 80 square kilometers of territory between the southern banks of the Neysan River, the southern section of Karkheh Kur, and the northern section of Hur ol-Azim was purged of Iraqi aggressors. Subsequently, six villages previously held by the enemy were all liberated.

Iraqi forces are now stationed on the southern banks of the Karkheh Kur, and the Iranian forces are stationed in their newly gained positions.

It was also reported that the Iraqi forces, upon their flight from the area, looted the livestock and possessions of the impoverished people of the villages south of Neysa and, in addition to that, leveled some of the villages, including the Imam Zayn ol-Abedin Mosque, to the ground.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 764

LD191742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Communique 764 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Oh Muslim nation of Iran, heroic combatants of Islam: The self-sacrificing, true companions of the great Khomeyni, armed with faith in final victory in the confrontation with the army of falsehood and ignorance, are valiantly waging battle.

During the past 48 hours, Saddam's aggressive army has come under intense fire from our forces throughout the country's southern and western fronts, and Islam's combatants, by opening fire on predetermined targets, have inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

On the country's western fronts, the intensity of fire was greater in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb. In the (Gavmishan) region, a unit of aggressive servicemen tried to penetrate our positions but, thanks to the stiff resistance put up by the imam's devotees, the members of the unit were forced to retreat. We have no information on enemy casualties in that region.

The exchange of artillery fire also continued on the Bazi Deraz and (Kaseh Shur) positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. On one of the fronts in that region several enemy trenches and foxholes and a heavy machinegun were destroyed and a number of enemy servicemen were killed.

In the Sumar, Salehabad and Meymak regions, our tireless combatants, by opening continuous fire on enemy servicemen, trenches and artillery, held the initiative.

In the Gilan-e Gharb region, Islam's mighty forces opened fire on enemy positions and, as a result, 2 enemy trenches and a number of weapons emplacements were destroyed and at least 20 Saddamists were killed. Also, by opening fire on the aggressors' motor pool in the same region, eight of their vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed.

Throughout the country's southern fronts, an exchange of artillery and other heavy-weapon fire continued sporadically. On the Dub-e Hardan front, our ground forces responded to enemy fire and inflicted appreciable blows on the Saddamist forces. An exchange of fire continued on the Shush and (Reqabiyeh) fronts. In the region west of Dezful, our combatants, by opening retaliatory fire while continuing to defend their positions, prevented enemy movements.

During the battle on 16 and 17 January, four combatants of our Ground Forces, four Gendarmerie fighters and one heroic policeman of the Islamic Republic of Iran joined the caravan of bloodsoaked martyrs of the path of justice. May their souls be happy.

FURTHER DETAILS ON 17-18 JAN BATTLE OPERATIONS

LD181726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Summary] According to IRNA, during the past 24 hours, on the Gilan-e Gharb, Mehran and Zahab fronts, 8 enemy slit trenches and foxholes, 2 mortars and 1 75-mm machinegun were destroyed, 1 enemy vehicle was damaged and 16 enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. In the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector, the Iranian forces brought enemy positions under fire, silencing enemy artillery and inflicting losses and casualties on enemy personnel and artillery positions.

Also, the revolution guards destroyed 4 enemy slit trenches and 3 foxholes near Hill (?126), killing or wounding 19 enemy personnel.

Also, the Iranian forces killed more than 23 enemy personnel and destroyed 8 enemy RPG-7 and machinegun trenches and slit trenches. The Iranian forces set ablaze one enemy ammunition dump in the occupied section of Khuninshahr on 17 January.

The Iranian forces silenced enemy fire on the other side of the Arvand Rud and prevented enemy canal digging, bunker building and deployment.

At 1645 today, enemy aircraft bombed Abadan and destroyed a number of houses. The enemy also shelled Dezful at 1500 today with long-range artillery fire, killing one inhabitant and damaging a number of houses.

OFFICIALS ON EXECUTION DECISION, AMNESTY

LD191826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Mohammadi Gilani, the head of the Islamic revolution courts, and Mr Asadollah Lajevardi, Tehran's revolution prosecutor, granted an interview to domestic and foreign reporters at Evin Prison this afternoon. During this interview, Mr Mohammadi Gilani talked about the shortages of judicial cadres and shari'a [Islamic law] magistrates. He said: The Supreme Judicial Council has drawn up plans to remedy this shortage through the seminaries and other educational centers.

Concerning his recent meeting with the imam, Mr Lajevardi, Tehran revolution prosecutor, said: WE discussed judicial affairs and some other issues and he issued some guidelines. He added: The imam's recent orders made us more aware that if some brothers have committed even the slightest offense, such offenses will not be repeated. The offenders have been and will be punished. The revolution prosecutor also said: At present we have 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners connected with the minigroups. I should add that there are prisoners who are about 14 years old; they are receiving guidance. The juveniles are being kept in special premises. The religious judges have never given them death sentences.

Concerning the Red Cross visit with the prisoners, he said: Our position is the same as that announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have nothing new to say. Asked about guidance and propaganda in the prison, the Tehran revolution prosecutor said: About 50 percent of the prisoners have been cured of deviant thoughts through guidance. Mr Lajevardi added: About 90 percent of the prisoners have asked to have television interviews so that they can tell the people they had been deceived, so that other ignorant young people might not be deceived by the U.S. plots and U.S. agents. In conclusion, the revolution prosecutor added: Recently about 500 members of the minibroups have been released: His great eminence the imam granted his permission for this.

Our reporter also interviewed Mr Mohammadi Gilani and Mr Lajevardi, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Gilani, what was the reason behind the recent Supreme Judicial Council decision on death sentences in the revolution courts?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, concerning the issue of blood [death sentences], of people's honor [term usually referring to the female members of a family] and of people's property, Islam acts with great caution. The esteemed Supreme Judicial Council has decided that greater care should be taken over executions, considering the recommendations made by the great Islamic authorities concerning the three issues I referred to: namely, blood -- if one drop of blood is wrongly shed this will cause catastrophes, according to Islam. [sentence as heard] Therefore, because of the caution that Islamic jurisprudence enjoins concerning these three issues, the esteemed Supreme Judicial Council decided that greater care should be taken over executions. This does not mean, God forbid, that past executions were unjust. No, they were just. However, there is no harm in making a deeper study of justice itself. Therefore, the reason for the decision is the Islamic caution about these three issues.

[Question] Mr Lajevardi, what steps have been taken at Evin Prison concerning amnesty for the prisoners, especially on 11 February [anniversary of Islamic revolution]?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A list was prepared and sent to the amnesty commission on offenders found guilty by the revolution courts whose offenses were not connected with the minigroups and whose mental fitness was confirmed by prison officials and the brothers who have direct contact with them. The commission has been asked to study their files again and, if the commission decides to, it can issue amnesties on the occasion of 11 February. As I said, this list includes only those who have had no connection with the minigroups. At the moment, no request for amnesty has been made for the files [as heard] of those offenders imprisoned for terrorism and murder, whose vile actions are still more or less continuing in society. At the moment, we have no plans to ask the amnesty commission to amnesty these minigroup members. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER BACKS CONTINUED POLICE PURGE

NC192222 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Tehran, 19 Jan (AFP) -- The purge of Iran's police force which has already reduced its strength from 60,000 to 40,000 must continue, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri told parliament today.

He said that during the purge "some had been arrested, others executed, and some had fled. The purge must continue," he added.

Earlier Tehran Deputy Hadi Ghaffari said the police were often "reticent" when it came to tackling armed leftist groups.

He also criticised police for defending the offices of ex-President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr during demonstrations on June 20, shortly after he had been removed from office by a parliamentary vote.

The police, so active under the late shah's regime, now does nothing, Mr Ghaffari added. They claim that tackling opposition groups is not part of their job and continue to direct traffic while attacks take place under their noses. Mr Ghaffari maintained that many police who went around clubbing people under the shah were still in the same jobs.

CAMPAIGN ON TO CHANGE BAHAI-NAMED STREETS

NC182203 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (AFP) -- The Tehran municipal authorities have asked inhabitants of the capital to alert them if they see names of streets or squares bearing names connected with the Baha'i sect so that they could be renamed, the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC reported today.

Quoting the mayor's office, the paper said such names "must be changed immediately so that the face of Tehran comes completely into line with Islamic principles".

There has been a crackdown against Baha'is in recent months, with reports that many have been executed or imprisoned.

CLANDESTINE RADIO TO USE NEW TRANSMITTERS

GF181924 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 18 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: On the basis of reports the Free Voice of Iran has received on jamming by Khomeyni's regime, it appears that it is occasionally unable to convey domestic news and reports on events pertaining to our country.

This jamming is transmitted by foreign countries or the transmitters of Khomeyni's regime on the frequencies used by the Free Voice of Iran and creates disturbances in our casts.

In order to present our programs to our listeners in a better manner, the Free Voice of Iran, which broadcasts morning and evening at 1830 [1500 GMT] [as heard], has finally -- through the efforts of our dear compatriots, the crusaders for freedom and antiregime engineers and technicians, and with the assistance and fortitude of patriotic Iranians -- set up two modern mobile transmitters in northern and western Iran on the soil of our homeland. They will begin operating on Thursday, 21 January, so that jamming will not keep our messages and reports from reaching the ears of all our freedom fighters within the country.

They are under the severe censorship and extreme suffocation of Khomeyni's despotic regime and are deprived of the truth concerning events, trends and news about Iran.

The modern mobile transmitters of the Free Voice of Iran will begin operating on Thursday, 21 January, on the shortwave 41 meter band, corresponding to 7185 kHz, and the 92 meter band, corresponding to 3369 kHz. It will relay the Free Voice of Iran's programs to northern and western Iran for 1 hour at 0630 [0300 GMT] and 1830 [1500 GMT] in the morning and evening.

DELEGATION IN ITALY REPORTEDLY TO BUY SPARES

NC191801 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] A delegation has been sent to Italy by Khomeyni's Islamic Republic for talks with Italian officials. The delegation's mission is not yet clear, but it is said that the delegation will hold talks with Italian officials on the purchase of spare parts for helicopters, raw materials and war material.

Some time ago a Free Voice of Iran correspondent had reported from Tehran that Khomeyni's Islamic Republic recently purchased equipment and spare parts for helicopters from Italy.

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN LAUNCH ATTACKS IN HERAT

GF191315 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] In a series of attacks against Afghan Government and Soviet forces in two areas of Herat, Muslim Afghan mujahidin destroyed 13 tanks and a Soviet personnel carrier.

The mujahidin also captured a number of antiaircraft guns, automatic weapons and RPG-7 launchers.